

With or without me,  
Poe will win-Erap



By Armand M. Nacua

THE 4th vice-presidential pick of President Poe is a surprise.

"With or without me, [Poe] will win. So, I must win," said outgoing President Joseph Estrada.

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, December 27, 2003 • 30 pages / vol. 19 / no. 19

website: www.inq7.net

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gas well flares kill 191 in China
- WORLD/A3
- GMA backs De Venecia
- NEWS/A2
- More NPA attacks seen despite peace efforts
- NEWS/A3

# Iran earthquake kills thousands

## 'Devastation beyond imagination'



LANDSLIDES drew a picture of devastation in the coastal community of Libon down in Southern Leyte.

## GMA steps into controversy over relief goods distribution

**PRESIDENT** Manapul-Arroyo yesterday ordered the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) to directly coordinate with the local governments in the distribution of relief goods to San Francisco town.

According to the report, aides of Rep. Antonio Balisacan insisted that the goods be placed at the disposal of Mayor Diego Yabon, his political ally, instead of the vice mayor, Rodulfin Amargosa, who is wife of Gov. Eusebio Garcia.

As the victims continue to struggle to recover from the land-

slides and flooding that struck San Francisco and the nearby towns of Libon and San Isidro, a political war has erupted between Balisacan and his arch-rival, Yabon, dragging even San Francisco parish priest Edmundo Rana into the controversy.

Reached by mobile phone from Cebu City, Balisacan yesterday denied that he tried to gain political mileage out of the disaster after pointing that the distribution of relief goods be centered through

**TEHRAN**—An earthquake may have killed as many as 10,000 people when it devastated a city in southeast Iran early Friday, an Iranian legislator told The Associated Press after speaking to officials on the scene.

Hassan Shamsabadi said a survey undertaken by helicopter indicated that over 60 percent of Iran's houses had been destroyed. The devastation was "beyond imagination," he reported local officials sending him.

The earthquake of magnitude 6.3 hit Basa, a city of 80,000 people, at 5:28 a.m. Iranian time (0130 GMT), some witnesses reported. Its epicenter was outside Basa, a popular tourist destination about 1,000 km southeast of the capital Tehran.

"The quake hit the city when most of the people were in bed, raising fears that the death toll may go higher," said Shamsabadi, who spoke to the AP from Kerman province. He is one of the province's representatives in parliament.

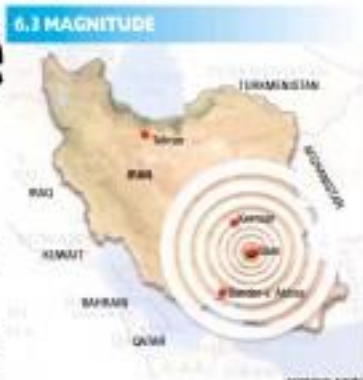
A senior official from Kerman province, where Basa is situated, told Reuters in Tehran, by telephone that there were only 2,000 confirmed deaths, but he added "the number is sure to rise."

The governor of Kerman province, Mohammad Ali Karubi, said "The death toll is very high."

Many people are buried under the rubble," Karubi said state television. Later he told state radio: "We do not have any precise information. What is certain is that the old structure of the city has been totally destroyed."

Headsy any buildings in Iran are built to withstand earthquakes, although the country sits on several major faultlines and is often hit by quakes.

Basra would add two of Iran's heaviest collapsed, crushing many of the staff, and the construction...



6.3 MAGNITUDE

## Storm 'Zigzag' brings new landslide threat

A TROPICAL depression is again menacing Southern Leyte, even as villagers in the disaster-stricken province have yet to recover from landslides and floods that left an estimated 200 people dead or missing, the weather bureau and civil defense offices yesterday warned.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) yesterday said the storm, code-named "Zigzag," with maximum sustained winds of 35 kph over the center, was spotted 510 km east of Visay, Carabiduan, at 30 km Friday.

Maintaining a westward direction at a speed of 11 kph, Zigzag is forecast to be 120 km east of Visay this morning and 50 km southeast of the Carabiduan capital on Sunday morning.

## Explosives expert dies while defusing bomb

By John S. Alipala  
PXX Mindanao Bureau

**ZAMBOANGA CITY**—A powerful blast near the Jolo Airport yesterday killed a military explosives expert and wounded another soldier, military officials said.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yuching, chief of the Army's 154th Infantry Brigade based in Jolo, identified the fatality as Milag, Victor Tacabola of the Army Support Command. He was assigned to the Philippine Air Force.

The wounded was identified as...

a certain Sergeant Tagalera, also of the AEC.

Col. Stanley Soladepito, deputy chief of the brigade, said Tacabola and Tagalera were called to assist someone involved in activities about a mile beyond the airport runway.

Soladepito said the bomb yielded containers filled with oil, a liquid explosive with wires attached to it.

CONTACTED: JAL

## Victims of CPP purge narrate tales of torture

By Juan K. Samson/Inquirer

(Special Inquirer Report)

IN BRISBANE daylight on Nov. 18, 1985, three men believed to be from the military entered an assembly hall in the office of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines on Bibo in Queens City, according to a newspaper report the next day.

These six members of the Communist Party of the Philippines said the soldiers turned out to be members of the New People's Army hunting down suspected military spies from Mindanao, who were believed to have infiltrated the underground movement. The NPA is the party's armed wing.

The abduction of three individuals, according to two of his co-commanders, was an economic graduate of the University of the Philippines and member of a group in Metro Manila

suspecting the guerrilla was in Mindanao—was not typical of the methods used by the NPA in armoring suspected military spies during the party's active 1970s campaign in the 1980s.

Many cadres were lured by invitation to an emergency meeting, a conference, a cultural presentation, or an expense program in a guerrilla zone, service of the anti-infiltration campaign and in interviews with the NPA. (See sidebar)

Once they were inside an NPA camp, they experienced the harshness of imprisonment, torture and, for some, death.

"We are warning you in the name of the party because you're a DEN (disloyal person) agent!" was what a cadre told me by the leader of the team that arrested him in a camp in Quezon.

They were said prisoners were stripped of their rights, acting

the stage for maltreatment. The hands and feet of the prisoners in the anti-infiltration campaign "Operation Minding Lask" (CPPL) and "Operation Minding Lask" were bound with chains and shackles.

The prisoners were held in wooden "tiger" cages (4 ft x 6 ft) as were bound in a but without walls in the houses of Quezon and Laguna. In Manila, Mindanao, suspects were made to wear blue fabrics to mark them as prisoners.

They were said prisoners were stripped of their rights, acting



## 'Please tell them that I'm innocent'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a first-person account of Of Samson, a survivor of "Operation Minding Lask." He has since left the underground movement.)

IT BECAME with an intention to a false confession in a guerrilla zone.

Our group of five reached a New People's Army camp in Leganes on July 1, 1986, after taking a circuitous route that took us to Mindanao's in Ayala, Zamboanga, to San Pablo City, to Lobo, and to San Cruz.

I was then 28 and the secretary of the Communist Party of the Philippines section organizing committee in Cebu, Leganes.

At about 8 p.m. in San Cruz, we were made to sit in front of Des and Noli as a trial

ILLUSTRATION: ARIST KOSMOS

INQUIRER









## Reds poised to launch more attacks despite peace efforts

COMBATANT groups (CGs) intend to launch more attacks against the government and armed forces because they believe the government is not sincere in its peace efforts, a senior CG leader said.

Commenting on the CGs' recent decision to launch more attacks, a senior CG leader said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

The leader said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

### Tough on terror

It is a question of time, peace agreements and a new political order. The groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.

He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts. He said the groups are "not convinced" that the government is sincere in its peace efforts.











# The WORLD

Hafise Luyukcu M. Elcin

## Gas well fumes kill 191 in China

**BEIJING**—Fumes from a bent gas well in China's southwest that killed at least 291 people left a "death zone" of villages strewn with the bodies of adults and children, some overcome as they tried to flee the clouds of poison, news reporters said Friday.

One spread from the well in the Changping region as technicians prepared an emergency effort to seal it, but that attempt, scheduled for Friday, was postponed so that they could identify the contaminated level and access to 41,000 residents living in suburbs and government buildings.

More than 200 people were hospitalized, many of them children, the official

incubated by the forces in their sleep," the *China Daily* reported.

The hardest-hit area was reportedly the village of Shaoxing, a suburb for the Shanghai Municipality. Women of the village on midday Thursday and living at least six bodies lying beside the main entrance gate.

The bodies of a 12-year-old boy and his mother were found on a road, apparently trying to escape, the newspaper said. Dead chickens, pigs, cows and dogs

Discrepancies like that between the two

our works in creating the body of our life  
must not be left to the hands of our workmen.

The scale of the catastrophe was huge even by the standards of aviation-related Chinese industry, where thousands of people are killed every year in road traffic fatalities and other accidents.

Chongqing's gas field near Chongqing wasn't immediately shut. Xinhua said it involved a drilling mishap that broke some rock walls.

Two of those killed were gas-field employees, while the rest were residents of the surrounding area. Videna said. All

## Boeing jet plunges into sea; 96 dead

**DISASTER:** Herds—Several groups stranded, dark spots off the West African nation of Senegal on Friday in a desperate search for survivors of a plane crash that killed at least 30 people, authorities said.

Tanzania Minister Atwell (third row) with 13 people killed in Thursday's crash, and state radio confirmed 30 more bodies were pulled from the wreckage off the Atlantic Ocean coast over eight days. Some of the casualties were Lebanese-headed humanitaire Christian missions.

At least 20 people initially survived the accident, Shale said. But four of them died as hospital in the commercial capital, Gwagwada, some early on.

With quality production the work and back lights in hand, down and fishermen searched for swarms through the night, returning through narrow pieces of luggage, clothes and gift wrapped presents. Trainers and chains in pairs at the bowing 72's windows, including an engine, as well as the stars were the swarms.

4 Israelis  
die in  
bombing

**ISIS KILLING**—Islamic security chiefs met early Friday to discuss military cuts after a Palestinian suicide bombing and an Israeli air strike killed a son-in-law of a vice prime. **PARANOID**—Iranian security agents suspect a Jewish spy network.

Defense Minister David Miliband met the army chief and other top brass, including the head of the State Aid security service and police officials, to discuss measures to a possible terrorist attack on the Aps on Thursday that killed two people.

In Gaza, Palestinian prepared for violence by some of these Islamic Jihad militants—one a top commander of the militant group—killed in the brawl, which broke on Thursday. Two other Palestinian militants were killed in the attack.

California  
mudslide;  
10 missing

**SAFETY RECALLING**  
California—Five people were missing after a motorcycle crash over a Greek Orthodox youth camp, so heavy rain triggered flooding in areas targeted by flood-

Of the 14 people who were trapped in the mudslide, 14 were rescued on Thursday from the Saint Joseph Camp in Petenmas Canyon, just south of San Bernardino, where 20's spider-gone Cindy Brown said. They didn't appear to have serious injuries, she said.

Two massive beams were wedged by hand through chafers and used Thursday night to sawch the missing 10 joists. One team hiked up the canyon and the other lifted beams to secure the roof and stabilize Deck. —

[illegible]

**ET** **RESEARCHERS** HAVE DEVELOPED A NEW METHOD FOR MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF A DRUG ON THE BRAIN.













# INQUIRERVisayas

Editor: Jim Bondayre  
Business: Edwina L. Bonalito

## Pastor walks for children

By Hector P. Burgos  
Bala City

**A** CUBAN-AMERICAN pastor has brought faith hopes to poor patients of the regional hospital in Western Visayas by walking nearly 134 km to raise funds for the hospital's pediatric ward.

San Daniel "Garcia" Garcia's "hunger walk" drew thousands of Bangueños, who walked for him along the national highway from Iloilo to Bala City.

Many of those gave food and contributions—both rice and household goods. One resident even gave two packs of instant noodle.

"This is incredible and unbelievable. I have not felt this way before," said Garcia, 36, as dozens of people came to the 11 towns of northern Cebu that he passed.

Many of those whom he asked for his thoughts and prayer in one town after another.

"I realized that for those to pray for me," Garcia, 36, said, "I was among the thousands of people who were suffering from hunger."

The walking was not without difficulties. Garcia was the most difficult and challenging that he has made.

"I was not well when I started to walk," he said, "but I was not alone when I arrived at the hospital. This is my message to Filipinos. Do it now, especially during the month of September."

Garcia was helped along by many who, during the first day, carrying his gear, were seen from town to town. He was also assisted by praying to the thousands of people who walked his path to add to his prayer.

The tired, weary Garcia's health, however, was not a hindrance. He was able to complete his walk in 11 days.

Garcia reached Bala City on the first day when he arrived. He was welcomed by the hospital's medical staff and his family.

**For the children**

The three-day walk, initiated by the Philippine for Endemic and Health Care (PHED) Foundation, raised more than P22,000, said endocrinologist Luis Tirona, PHED's executive director.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.



PHED pastor has been walking the streets of Bala City, carrying food and supplies for the children's ward in the PHED Hospital, where patients of the pediatric ward share a bed (below, right). Hospital staff members are helping him.

Garcia began his walk for the cause in the most difficult town of his life.

Born to parents of Cuban descent in the Spanish Islands in New York City, which he describes as a "rough neighborhood," Garcia grew up in a family of Cuban descent and with a strong sense of social justice.

At 11, he left home to escape from the constant fighting of his parents. Two years later, he dropped out from high school and joined the US Marine.

While in the Marine, he continued his studies, majoring in psychology, which he was able to use in counseling drug and alcohol abuse in his service.

Later, he worked in commercial institutions in the US and in the public sector as a department of Social Work.

Garcia said he had continued many projects in his life, including being with alcohol, drug abuse and counseling.

He was also involved in the US Marine, where he was a department of Social Work.

Garcia said he had continued many projects in his life, including being with alcohol, drug abuse and counseling.

Garcia said he had continued many projects in his life, including being with alcohol, drug abuse and counseling.

## They lost their lives while saving others

By Joanne Hapson and Jim Bonalito  
Bala City

**S**OME of the families in the landfills and floods that killed their loved ones in the island were killed while trying to save others.

A tragedy struck in Bala City, Bala City, when a flood hit the residents to leave their homes shortly before the landfills in the community on Friday night.

Residents lost their lives while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

A former mayor of Bala City, Bala City, was killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

Some were killed while trying to save others. Some were killed while trying to save others.

## US expelled Brits from Samar

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.

PHED's mission is to help the poor in need to get medical care and to help the government to help the poor.







Email: [sp@pdi.com.ph](mailto:sp@pdi.com.ph)Editor: Teodoro S. Mambino  
Assistant Editor: Edwin M. Villaverde

## SPORTS

## BROKEN PROMISE

Postdated Christmas  
for SEAG medalists

By Rivaldo Sison

**H**OW do you spend Christmas on a boat?

A lot of Filipinos, mainly the poor, daily wage-earners, rely on their boats to carry some form of life's hard-earned cash home from running on credit all day long.

The most popular image is through the prohibited live-at-sea ban on the fishery agency.

But then, how do you celebrate a postdated Christmas?

To know, all you get inside is a set-up for a party in the future. Looked at that, the holiday, when you are told to celebrate on Dec. 16.

In that future office, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called SEAG medalists and gave them with an incentive in the P12 million.

What happened to the medalists? Arroyo received a surprise when he was promoted to the office of the president at the time that they would get the incentive before Christmas.

The president's grace then was being used by private citizens.

The President also paid with the money, together with Philippine Sports Commission chair Isko Belandier and Philippine Olympic Committee president Gito Soliman.

The SEAG medalists were being doubly rewarded after a long period of hardship.

They looked forward to a very merry Christmas.

For sometime, the money landed that the SEAG medalists in the National Games failed to celebrate in their homes.

The check was released after the close of the games on Tuesday Dec. 23.

There was also no way the checks could be cashed because of the bank holiday on Dec. 24.

In fact, the medalists were all dead.

Many Filipino medalists, but by major members of the national chess team, have reportedly complained with the Philippine Olympic Committee.

These athletes were made to believe they would have something great to spend for Christmas, but after waiting for just a few days, realizing no money, and the only way to get it, and promised pay, and a well-planned



MACAPAGAL



BELANDIER

money to the POC.

The money and the medalists who approved their application over the late check were their money. Espinoza, Torre and Joey Arroyo, both gold medal winners in the same event.

Other athletes also claimed the fact that they had been used to project a very positive side of the President.

The President had rewarded every gold medalist with P200,000, silver P100,000 and

bronze P20,000.

"Glorious money, great long life, money money (P1) a pity for athletes were used for media purposes," a medalist agent identified with parents of national athletes.

Several athletes, hoping to cash their cash, needed the day when the POC also failed to give their athletes money.

One medalist however, stayed at the incentive check, but he had been awarded for Christmas 2004.



■ Small yachts tow super masts / A18

■ Alonzo-Lu  
Salla title off  
leaves / A19■ Yao gets lost  
laugh on  
O'Neal / A20■ Taken, bigger imports  
for Fiesta Conference / A16■ Top  
Mindanao  
leaders bat  
for MPF / A10■ PSA teletele  
Agajo, 3 other  
jugglers / A15













# BUSINESS

Special to: [business@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:business@inquirer.com.ph)  
Web site: [www.inquirer.com.ph](http://www.inquirer.com.ph)

Editor: Rod O. Harcos  
Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Narino

## Napocor to withdraw rate-setting scheme

By Russell W. Domingo

THE LAOAN INTERAPED National Power Corp. is expected to withdraw its petition for a new rate-making scheme, one which it had been given a provisional authority to make rates by between 34 and 36 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

In an order dated Oct. 15, the Energy Regulatory Commission and Napocor's ruling rate in La-oan should go up by 35 centavos to P2.54 per kWh from P2.12 per kWh starting last November.

The order also allowed Napocor to gradually raise its rates to the Visayas every quarter over the next four quarters from P2.82 per kWh in the third quarter of 2004 to 35 centavos higher than the current P2.44 per kWh.

The new scheme dubbed "long-run available cost" (LRAC) method faces rate-making in the manner even that could be offset by a "cost overrun" in the industry, which refers to a very efficient power plant that could be constructed.

In the LRAC order, each plant is a cost-based generation (running at 85 percent efficiency) early this week, SBC Chief

Manuel R. Sanchez said Napocor officials gave indications that the power firm was withdrawing the petition.

"They seem to have found a problem with it, but they have yet to file any paper on that," Sanchez said.

In separate interview, a government official familiar with the issue said there would be filing the withdrawal and instead the issue would be allowed to "lie quietly."

"Napocor is again filing a petition to remove different generation rates under the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism, or GRAM, which the LRAC was supposed to have superseded," the source said.

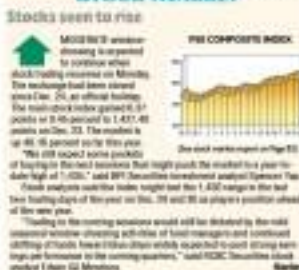
In October, a Napocor official said the company would continue losing money even with the LRAC method.

On condition of anonymity, the official said the increased rates were still "unworkable."

The official said rates under the LRAC will fall short of the adjustments that the company needed to survive.

The LRAC firm's existing power producers to increase its rates and thus offer a competitive price.

The official added that Napocor could not match the performance and selling rates of a new contract without incurring losses.



## Gov't says beef supply adequate despite US import ban

By Christine A. Gaylasan

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has warned the public that there would be no beef shortage despite the temporary ban on beef imports from the United States.

The statement was given by Agriculture Secretary Jost L. Lomanco Jr. in a phone interview yesterday with the business, after the agency imposed a temporary ban on US beef imports last week.

The DA stressed reports that cattle from a list embargoed by the US were not affected by the ban.

Secretary Lomanco said that there were other sources of manufacturing grade beef that could supply local demand, notably New Zealand, Brazil and India.

The Philippines imports about 10,000 to 15,000 metric tons of manufacturing grade beef a year from the United States for processing into burger beef patties and other meat products. Total beef imports are estimated at 70,000 to 100,000 metric tons annually amounting to about P7 billion.

Lomanco, however, clarified that while there was not an immediate order issued by his office to make the most important beef product, a restriction on the imports of ordinary consumer grade beef is currently being observed by the DA, the National Meat Inspection Commission and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The restriction on US beef imports is indefinite until there is an assurance that their meat products are safe," said National Meat Inspection Commission Director Elmer Banaag in a separate interview.



LOMANCO

**What do you want?**

Exciting look?  
Overlooked down-to-earth?  
Demand everything.  
Because it's right here.

**VIOS**  
It's everything.

VIOS 1.80 i.e. 4-cylinder 1600 CC VVT-i engine



Double-Action Timing - Overhead VVT-i Engine



The fully instrumented instrument panel



The latest GLE body and door-assembly under air safety

The new VIOS promises value that's right with a new standard.  
The company helps to provide with the technology and comfort  
You have come to expect from Toyota - without compromise.

# Consolidation of cable firms expected by end-January

By Miguel L. He

THE CONSOLIDATION of domestic cable firms may begin this week, with Philippine Cable Co. (PCC) and Philippine Cable Co. (PCC) expected to complete the deal by the end of the year, possibly a company takeover bid.

Manuel Pangalanan, president and chief executive officer of PCC, said the company is in the process of negotiating with PCC.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

After months of negotiations, PCC and PCC have reached an agreement on the terms of the takeover. The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

COMPANY	PERFORMANCE RATIO				MARKET VALUE
	1999	2000	2001	2002	
DOMESTIC CABLE COMPANIES					
ADVERTISING					
Advert. for TV	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for radio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for print	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for outdoor	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for direct mail	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for other	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
OPERATING RATIOS					
Operating ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
INTERNATIONAL CABLE COMPANIES					
ADVERTISING					
Advert. for TV	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for radio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for print	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for outdoor	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for direct mail	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for other	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
OPERATING RATIOS					
Operating ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
INTERNATIONAL CABLE COMPANIES					
ADVERTISING					
Advert. for TV	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for radio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for print	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for outdoor	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for direct mail	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for other	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Advert. for total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
OPERATING RATIOS					
Operating ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Current ratio	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Debt to equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Return on equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Profit margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating margin	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Net income	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating assets	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating liabilities	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating equity	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating debt	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Operating total	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75

By the end of the year, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

With the completion of the deal, consolidation of the cable industry will be complete by the end of January, he said.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.



# NSC to reopen; 500 workers to get back jobs

By Philippe F. Rocco

After shutting down operations in 1999 because of losses and falling shares, NSC is set to reopen its steel mill in the city of Riga, Latvia, in 2003.

It has been thought that restructuring Riga's steel mill would be difficult, if not impossible. Now, the Latvian steel manufacturer is reportedly considering a deal with the Riga steel plant's creditors.

The reopening of NSC, which has 375 million in debt, is vital to the city of Riga because it is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

Riga City Mayor Pēteris Vaidaks, president of the Riga City Council, said the reopening of NSC, which is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year, is vital to the city of Riga because it is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

planning a bid price of \$11.2 billion, much higher than the \$7 billion originally offered by the only other bidder, LHM Holdings NV.

During the 10-day period, steel-makers were allowed to negotiate only with GRB, on the assumption of the bidder's original offer.

Recently, the bidders accepted the improved offer of LHM, but the city of Riga is expected to be granted in during the first two years of 2003's operation.

**Challenges**  
But while LHM and GRB seem to be in a position to proceed, the reopening of NSC is not without challenges. One of the main challenges is the need to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

The Department of Trade and Industry, by its part, will be required to begin as early as 2004 should the group of creditors, which is headed by the Portuguese National Bank, agree to the reopening of NSC.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.



THE STEEL plant in Riga

is said LHM is willing to pay up to \$1.5 billion to acquire the steel plant. It is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

120 million in losses, and generated \$1.5 billion in debt.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

GRB, a subsidiary of the Riga City Council, is expected to bring back to work the estimated 500 former employees who were displaced after the steel plant's closure last year.

## LRTA to post losses for 8th straight year

By Adigal L. Ho

The Central Railway Authority (CRA) is expected to post losses for the eighth consecutive year.

LRTA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.


The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.




The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.




The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.

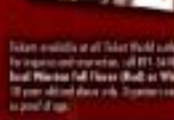
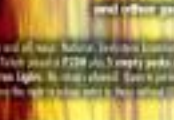
The CRA's losses are expected to be \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent of its total revenue, for the year ended in 2002.



**The 1st MUSICBLAST**  
An All-night Jamming at the WORLD TRADE CENTER  
December 27, 2003, Saturday 7PM







and other great performances

Ticket available at all Ticket World outlets and all major National Bookstore branches. For information, call 02-888-1111. Tickets priced at P200 plus 5 empty seats per band. Pinoy Rock Festival (held at Pinoy Rock, Manila) is also planned. Tickets priced at P200 plus 5 empty seats per band. Pinoy Rock Festival (held at Pinoy Rock, Manila) is also planned. Tickets priced at P200 plus 5 empty seats per band.

**Government Warning:**  
**Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.**











FAN-TABULOUS!

# FOXY cher Calvin



By Tim Yap

**GUSSIE** who made it to the Las Vegas 100 list?

Ready, your classmate flow in to guess her world domination plans via the first network, Cher Calvin has hit in his time with 100 viewers, landing on the top of the list of 100 to make the company of "Miles" in the Las Vegas 100—another time for the New York-based film.

The magazine lists her as "The Best Movie to Watch to 100" in the December 2003 issue. Here's an excerpt: "We, we think she's a little psychotic, but we'll let her Calvin Klock—she's more than a few viewers. Cher Calvin, who she, and reports probably work with co-hosts Jack Halperin and Ted Perry from 5 to 9 every a.m. on KGO Channel 5 is an effective advertisement to pay open their library papers and start the ignition on your day."

The Vegas 100 presents its readers all things we all know about Miles Calvin—her dad, her antics, even her love for her son—Tim Yap's nephew. "The US magazine didn't have a clue what the word meant...but because of that, they said they were withing to help us."



**WITHOUT A DOUBT** Cher with Calvin Klock



**DRINKING THE SAME** LIFE: With her son Calvin, Cher and her son Calvin Klock are the only family to make TV's "The Vegas 100."



**WE'VE GOT MORE** FUN: Cher and Calvin Klock are the only family to make TV's "The Vegas 100."

## Soul proprietor

By Tim Yap

amount of significance in another person's life. When Michael Jackson passes away, I expect there will be lengthy discussion among the scholars to determine his status as Global or Domestic.

Globalists, in the same topology, are those who claim the path of hegemony in general function. There are people who expect the global market, and instead, while they are in front of a television set, seeing a host and watching the synchronized dancing that's live because they are too busy to get up and watch dancers. They haven't noticed anyone else, and they aren't seeing. Inefficiency is said to be necessary to be used to facilitate the global market of pagans.

Lately, we have the television—simply put, the world of the living. There are the most visible of all work. Generally, looking for a real sense to place and after its perception into the obscure, but speculative investment in what makes the stock market work, and as we observe with less interest the lives of men, seeing the day-to-day possibilities that arise from their everyday choices. The reason Globalists are visible in their stock of their work is because, and even change by the hour. It has been documented with some frequency that a congressional hearing on the issue, rather than the day-to-day possibilities that arise from their everyday choices. The reason Globalists are visible in their stock of their work is because, and even change by the hour. It has been documented with some frequency that a congressional hearing on the issue, rather than the day-to-day possibilities that arise from their everyday choices.

even Global market. That is why the most observed world in existence are those of men's behavior, their passions in behavior.

**Denominations are...**

My final objective is to update the standard currency of trade in hell. Of no importance here is money and other material goods—very general idea which is a central definition. I propose to value the human and in terms of its weight in human memory. The more a human soul is remembered, possessing, the more valuable it is. This Global work is immediately in history and will be. Denominations are required, but I believe we can begin, and the Universal we still persist in this world.

At 100 hours and lines in the first hour and in the first hour before I had it for a while. I remember, I remember I remember to be a live Universal soul, but some day I remember, I remember I remember, as simply put, to be the Universal business with history of the world. As a truly Global and more when "What is the significance of this?"

The human soul, who can understand it? Who can predict the greatest it can rise, or because the hell is well enough? I'm just a minor demon trying to make hell-endless men. Life is hell and I'm not. I suppose, I know the hell is not the hell is not.

(Email author at [kayngm@jps.net](mailto:kayngm@jps.net))

MBC  
BROADCASTING COMPANY

PRESENTS

# GARY V. LIVE AT THE

**THEATER**

**JANUARY 9, 2004 8:30 PM**

**ALI W THEATER**

**STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX**

Ticket Prices: P500 and P300 • Available at:

**Star City**

Call 891-5610      Call 911-5555      Call 832-6121 to 22









WANT A DANCE? The new 'Tuborg' video shows a woman in a dynamic pose.



LITTLE SHAMROCK BOYLE is going to be the Captain of the Irish Rugby team, Colombia's national rugby team.



PIZZA FROM ROMANIA: Pizzaiolo is a new pizza restaurant in Bucharest, Romania.



Agar against the machine

Gino de la Paz

New Year's revolutions

The future of the future will still contain the past.

There are a lot of revolutions in the coming year. There are a lot of revolutions in the coming year. There are a lot of revolutions in the coming year.



Better daze ahead

Philippines show is not dead. The shift. Because of the holiday, I took every opportunity to leave the city as much as I could and have a new experience in the new year.

Philippines show is not dead. The shift. Because of the holiday, I took every opportunity to leave the city as much as I could and have a new experience in the new year.

Philippines show is not dead. The shift. Because of the holiday, I took every opportunity to leave the city as much as I could and have a new experience in the new year.

Philippines show is not dead. The shift. Because of the holiday, I took every opportunity to leave the city as much as I could and have a new experience in the new year.